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1958–1980

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U.S. Trade With the European Community

June 28, 1981

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United States Department of State
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Washington, D.C.

CONTENTS

Tables

I. U.S. Imports From the European Community of Nine, by Countries, 1958-1980
II. U.S. Exports to the European Community of Nine, by Countries, 1958-1980
III. U.S. Agricultural and Nonagricultural Trade With the European Community of Nine, 1958-1980
IV. U.S. Agricultural and Nonagricultural Trade With the European Community of Nine, as Percent of World, 1958-1980

Charts

I. U.S. Agricultural Exports to the European Community of Nine, 1958-1980
II. U.S. Nonagricultural Exports to the European Community of Nine, 1958-1980

Following is a report prepared by Lucie Kornei, Office of Analysis for Western Europe, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, May 14, 1981.

The tables and charts in this report, covering the years 1958-1980, present data on U.S. trade with the countries of the European Community (EC), by value and as a percentage of total trade. For the period of the report, the EC was still the EC of Nine; Greece, the 10th member, joined in January 1981. Trade is shown both as a whole and broken down by agricultural and nonagricultural sectors. The following comparisons with earlier years are, with a few exceptions, made in terms of percentage shares, rather than trade values, in order to minimize the distorting effects of inflation and exchange rate fluctuations.

• U.S. imports from the Nine, as a percentage of total imports, reached a peak in 1968 (24.9%) and then declined, first gradually and then more sharply, until 1976 when they amounted to 14.8%. In 1977 they rose slightly, to 15.1%, and in 1978 more steeply, to 17.0%, but fell again in 1979 and 1980 to 16.4% and 15.1%, respectively.

• U.S. exports to the Nine, which accounted for more than 25.0% of total U.S. exports throughout the 1960s, declined to 21.3% by 1975. They remained stable at slightly more than 22% for the next 3 years and then rose to 23.4% and 24.3% in 1979 and 1980, respectively.

All 1980 data are preliminary.

• The only year in which the United States had a trade deficit with the Nine was in 1972, when U.S. imports were $12.5 billion while exports amounted to $11.9 billion. In 1980 the U.S. trade surplus with the Nine reached an alltime high of $17.4 billion—twice that of 1979—in contrast to a U.S. global trade deficit of $20.5 billion that year.

The share of agricultural products in U.S. imports from the Nine declined in the 1960s but varied little in the 1970s.

The share of agricultural products in U.S. exports to the Nine declined from 33.0% in 1958 to a low of 17.7% in 1969. It increased temporarily in the 1970s as a result of high world prices of grains and soybeans and a series of poor European harvests, but dropped back to 17.9% and 16.6% in 1979 and 1980, respectively.

The share of the Nine in total U.S. agricultural imports from the world as a whole rose from 7.2% in 1958 to 13.2% in 1973. Since that time it has fluctuated in a range of 10.2% to 12.6%.

The share of the Nine in total U.S. agriculture exports to the world declined from 35.0% in 1960 to 25.0% in 1974. It increased during the next 3 years, but dropped again to 24.4% and 22.0% in 1978 and 1979, respectively, and finally to 21.6% in 1980.■

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TABLE I. US IMPORTS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE, BY COUNTRIES,* 1958-1980

Country	1958	1960	1968	1969	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978**	1979**	1980**
A. Values:													
Million dollars, Customs Value Basis													
Imports from entire world of which from:	12,792.5	14,653.9	33,226.3	36,042.8	55,582.8	69,475.7	100,997.3	96,902.4	121,806.7	148,704.0	173,249,9	207,058.0	241,194.9
Belgium-Luxembourg	268.2	363.5	767.1	682.7	968.5	1,273.1	1,682.8	1,199.1	1,131.2	1,468.6	1,776.3	1,756.7	1,923.2
Denmark	83.5	98.3	219.9	257.7	366.9	460.1	476.7	464.3	564.4	586.6	698.5	713.4	728.7
France	308.2	396.1	842.3	842.2	1,368.6	1,731.8	2,305.1	2,164.1	2,541.0	3,075.0	4,135.1	4,880.8	5,319.5
Federal Republic of Germany	629.4	897.2	2,721.3	2,603.4	4,250.3	5,344.5	6,428.7	5,409.9	5,700.9	7,383.2	10,139.8	11,186.1	11,803.6
Ireland	16.0	28.3	107.7	123.3	151.9	203.6	247.3	177.7	202.6	237.6	327.0	328.5	415.1
Italy	273.7	393.1	1,101.7	1,203.7	1,756.7	2,001.8	2,593.1	2,456.6	2,543.7	3,073.6	4,172.9	5,046.6	4,377.1
Netherlands	188.3	213.0	452.9	466.4	639.3	933.5	1,449.1	1,088.8	1,094.0	1,496.8	1,618.6	1,868.5	1,920.7
UK	864.3	992.7	2,058.3	2,120.4	2,987.1	3,656.5	4,022.7	3,772.9	4,289.5	5,183.1	6,561.1	8,106.3	9,821.2
Total EC of Nine	2,631.6	3,382.2	8,271.2	8,299.8	12,489.3	15,604.9	19,205.5	16,733.4	18,067.3	22,504.5	29,429.3	33,886.9	36,309.1
B. Percentages:													
Imports from entire world of which from:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Belgium-Luxembourg	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Denmark	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
France	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.2
Federal Republic of Germany	4.9	6.1	8.2	7.2	7.6	7.7	6.4	5.6	4.7	5.0	5.9	5.4	4.9
Ireland	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Italy	2.1	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	1.8
Netherlands	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
UK	6.8	6.8	6.2	5.9	5.4	5.3	4.0	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.1
Total EC of Nine	20.6	23.1	24.9	23.0	22.5	22.5	19.0	17.3	14.8	15.1	17.0	16.4	15.1

*Data on individual countries may be misleading in view of transshipment between EC members. Percentages may not necessarily add to the totals shown, because of rounding.

**Starting 1978 data include shipments of nonmonetary gold.

Sources: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Highlights of US Export and Import Trade," US Foreign Trade Series FT 990, for various years.

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TABLE II. US EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE, BY COUNTRIES,* 1958-1980

Country	1958	1960	1968	1969	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978**	1979**	1980**
A. Values:													
Million dollars f.o.b.													
Exports to entire world	17,910.0	20,575.5	34,635.9	38,005.6	49,778.2	71,338.8	98,507.2	107,591.5	114,992.4	121,242.4	143,662.7	181,815.6	220,704.9
of which to:													
Belgium-Luxembourg	366.8	466.9	822.9	959.6	1,138.1	1,622.6	2,283.8	2,417.4	2,992.7	3,138.1	3,692.7	5,186.7	6,661.3
Denmark	99.9	146.3	206.7	204.6	257.7	403.6	360.3	444.6	444.1	531.7	589.1	731.7	863.2
France	569.8	698.7	1,095.0	1,195.1	1,608.9	2,262.9	2,941.5	3,031.0	3,446.3	3,503.2	4,166.2	5,587.0	7,485.4
Federal Republic of Germany	887.0	1,271.6	1,708.9	2,142.1	2,807.5	3,755.7	4,984.6	5,194.1	5,730.8	5,988.8	6,956.8	8,477.8	11,959.8
Ireland	32.2	42.5	86.7	117.6	125.0	158.9	193.1	190.3	280.2	377.8	527.4	694.8	835.6
Italy	563.6	719.6	1,120.8	1,261.5	1,434.2	2,118.6	2,751.6	2,866.9	3,071.1	2,789.6	3,360.6	4,361.8	5,511.1
Netherlands	482.3	817.1	1,379.9	1,446.7	1,870.8	2,859.2	3,979.0	4,193.5	4,642.5	4,811.6	5,692.9	6,916.9	8,669.1
UK	905.2	1,486.9	2,288.7	2,334.6	2,658.2	3,563.6	4,573.5	4,527.4	4,801.2	5,950.9	7,196.0	10,634.9	12,693.6
Total EC of Nine	3,906.8	5,649.6	8,709.6	9,661.8	11,900.4	16,745.1	22,067.4	22,865.2	25,408.9	27,091.7	32,047.7	42,591.6	53,679.1
B. Percentages:													
Exports to entire world	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
of which to:													
Belgium-Luxembourg	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.9	3.0
Denmark	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
France	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.4
Federal Republic of Germany	5.0	6.2	4.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	5.0
Ireland	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Italy	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5
Netherlands	2.7	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.9
UK	5.1	7.2	6.6	6.1	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.0	5.9	5.8
Total EC of Nine	21.8	27.5	25.1	25.4	23.9	23.5	22.4	21.3	22.1	22.4	22.3	23.4	24.3

* Data on individual countries may be misleading in view of transshipment between EC members.
Percentages may not necessarily add to the totals shown, because of rounding.

**Starting 1978 data include shipments of nonmonetary gold.

Sources: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Highlights of US Export and Import Trade," US Foreign Trade Series FT 990, for various years.

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TABLE III. US AGRICULTURAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE, 1958-1980

(Million dollars)

	Year	Total Trade, from or to EC of Nine*	of which: Agriculture	of which: Non-Agriculture*	As Percent of Total: Agriculture	As Percent of Total: Non-Agriculture*
A. Imports:						
	1958	2,631.6	278.4	2,353.2	10.6	89.4
	1960	3,382.2	313.5	3,068.7	9.3	90.7
	1968	8,271.2	551.0	7,720.2	6.7	93.3
	1969	8,299.8	568.5	7,731.3	6.8	93.2
	1972	12,489.3	800.2	11,689.1	6.4	93.6
	1973	15,604.9	1,109.3	14,495.6	7.1	92.9
	1974	19,205.	1,158.0	18,047.5	6.0	94.0
	1975	16,733.4	1,063.4	15,670.0	6.4	93.6
	1976	18,067.3	1,218.6	16,848.7	6.7	93.3
	1977	22,504.5	1,370.7	21,133.8	6.1	93.9
	1978	29,429.3	1,858.7	27,570.6	6.3	93.7
	1979	33,886.9	1,884.4	32,002.5	5.6	94.4
	1980	36,309.1	2,066.1	34,243.0	5.7	94.3
B. Exports:						
	1958	3,906.8	1,288.5	2,618.3	33.0	67.0
	1960	5,649.6	1,686.8	3,962.8	29.9	70.1
	1968	8,709.6	1,852.6	6,867.0	21.2	78.8
	1969	9,661.8	1,711.0	7,950.8	17.7	82.3
	1972	11,900.4	2,726.1	9,174.3	22.9	77.1
	1973	16,745.1	4,525.6	12,219.5	27.0	73.0
	1974	22,067.4	5,503.5	16,563.9	24.9	75.1
	1975	22,865.2	5,564.4	17,300.8	24.3	75.7
	1976	25,408.9	6,422.9	18,986.0	25.3	74.7
	1977	27,091.7	6,619.9	20,471.8	24.4	75.6
	1978	32,047.7	7,175.6	24,872.1	22.4	77.6
	1979	42,591.6	7,640.6	34,951.0	17.9	82.1
	1980	53,679.1	8,928.9	44,750.2	16.6	83.4

Note: Some commodities formerly classified as non-agricultural (such as fur skins) have been included in agricultural trade beginning with 1970, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

*Starting 1978, data include shipments of nonmonetary gold.

Sources: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, "Highlights of US Export and Import Trade," US Foreign Trade Series FT 990, for various years. US Department of Agriculture, Economics and Statistics Service, "Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States," for various years, and unpublished trade data.

TABLE IV. US AGRICULTURAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE AS PERCENT OF WORLD, 1958-1980

(Million dollars)

	Year	Total Trade From or to world		of which: From or to the EC of Nine		As Percent of World	
		Agriculture	Non-Agriculture*	Agriculture	Non-Agriculture*	Agriculture	Non-Agriculture*
A. Imports:							
	1958	3,882.2	8,910.3	278.4	2,353.2	7.2	26.4
	1960	3,824.6	10,829.3	313.5	3,068.7	8.2	28.3
	1968	5,023.6	28,202.7	551.0	7,720.2	11.0	27.4
	1969	4,957.4	31,085.4	568.5	7,731.3	11.5	24.9
	1972	6,466.9	49,115.9	800.2	11,689.1	12.4	23.8
	1973	8,419.1	61,056.6	1,109.3	14,495.6	13.2	23.7
	1974	10,247.3	90,750.0	1,158.0	18,047.5	11.3	20.0
	1975	9,310.1	87,592.3	1,063.4	15,670.0	11.4	17.9
	1976	10,990.4	110,816.3	1,218.6	16,848.7	11.1	15.2
	1977	13,438.1	135,265.9	1,370.7	21,133.8	10.2	15.6
	1978	14,804.1	158,445.8	1,858.7	27,570.6	12.6	17.4
	1979	16,725.1	190,332.9	1,884.4	32,002.5	11.3	16.8
	1980	17,366.1	223,828.8	2,066.1	34,243.0	11.9	15.3
B. Exports:							
	1958	3,854.0	14,056.0	1,288.5	2,618.3	33.4	18.6
	1960	4,824.2	15,751.3	1,686.8	3,962.8	35.0	25.2
	1968	6,227.6	28,408.3	1,842.6	6,867.0	29.6	24.2
	1969	5,936.4	32,069.2	1,711.0	7,950.8	28.8	24.8
	1972	9,400.7	40,377.5	2,726.1	9,174.3	29.0	22.7
	1973	17,680.5	53,658.3	4,525.6	12,219.5	25.6	22.8
	1974	21,998.9	76,508.3	5,503.5	16,563.9	25.0	21.6
	1975	21,884.1	85,707.4	5,564.4	17,300.8	25.4	20.2
	1976	22,996.7	91,995.7	6,422.9	18,986.0	27.9	20.6
	1977	23,636.2	97,606.2	6,619.9	20,471.8	28.0	21.0
	1978	29,384.1	114,278.6	7,175.6	24,872.1	24.4	21.8
	1979	34,745.4	147,070.2	7,640.6	34,951.0	22.0	23.8
	1980	41,255.9	179,449.0	8,928.9	44,750.2	21.6	24.9

Note: Some commodities formerly classified as non-agricultural (such as fur skins) have been included in agricultural trade beginning with 1970, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

*Starting 1978, data include shipments of nonmonetary gold.

Sources: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Highlights of US Export and Import Trade," US Foreign Trade Series FT 990, for various years. US Department of Agriculture, Economics and Statistics Service, "Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States," for various years, and unpublished trade data.

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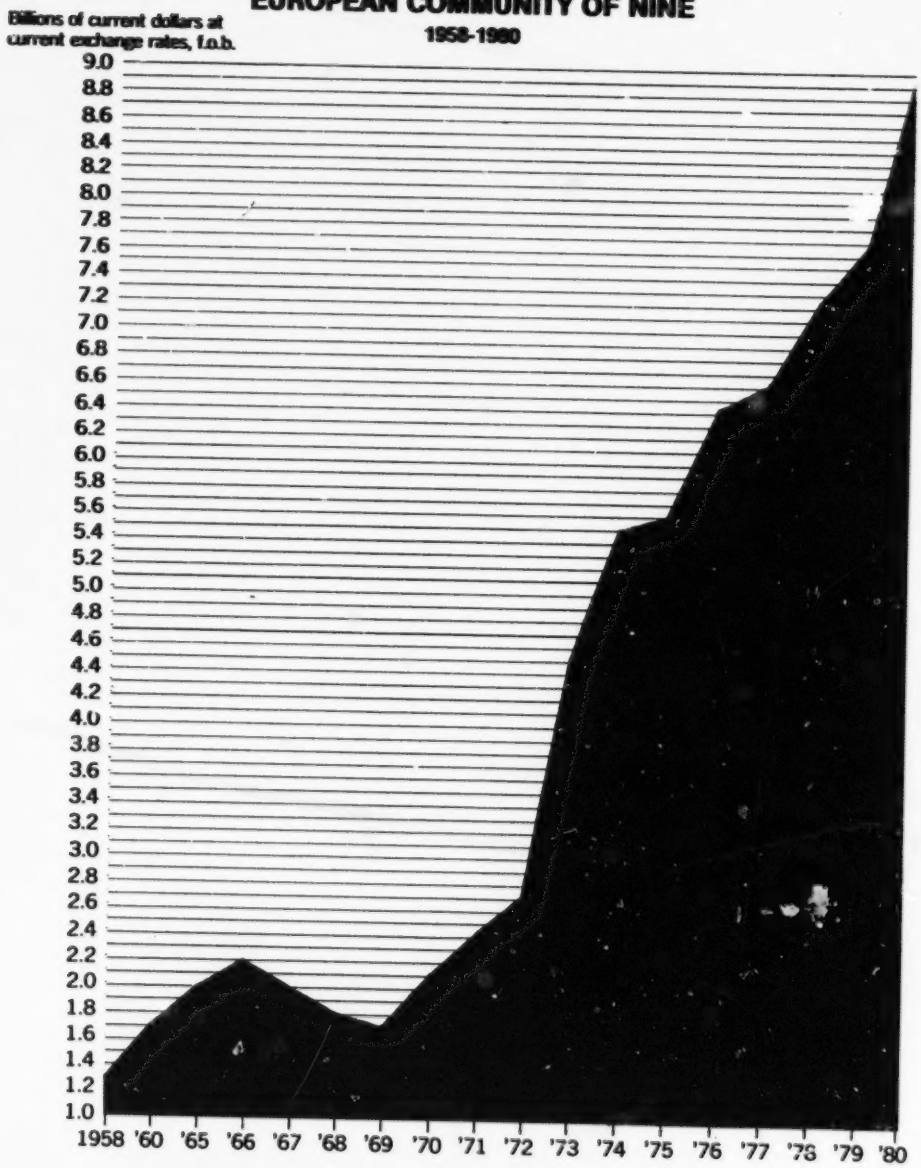
U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE

1958-1980



PERCENT OF TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

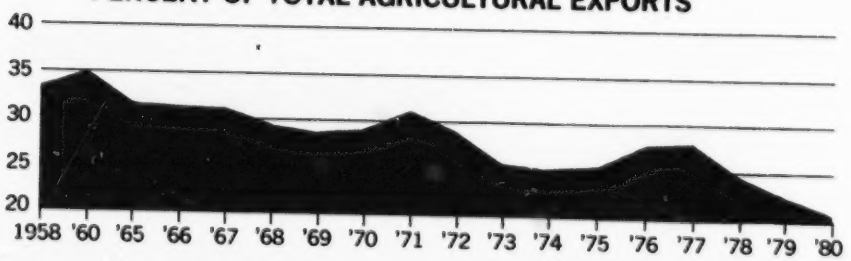


CHART I

Based on Table IV

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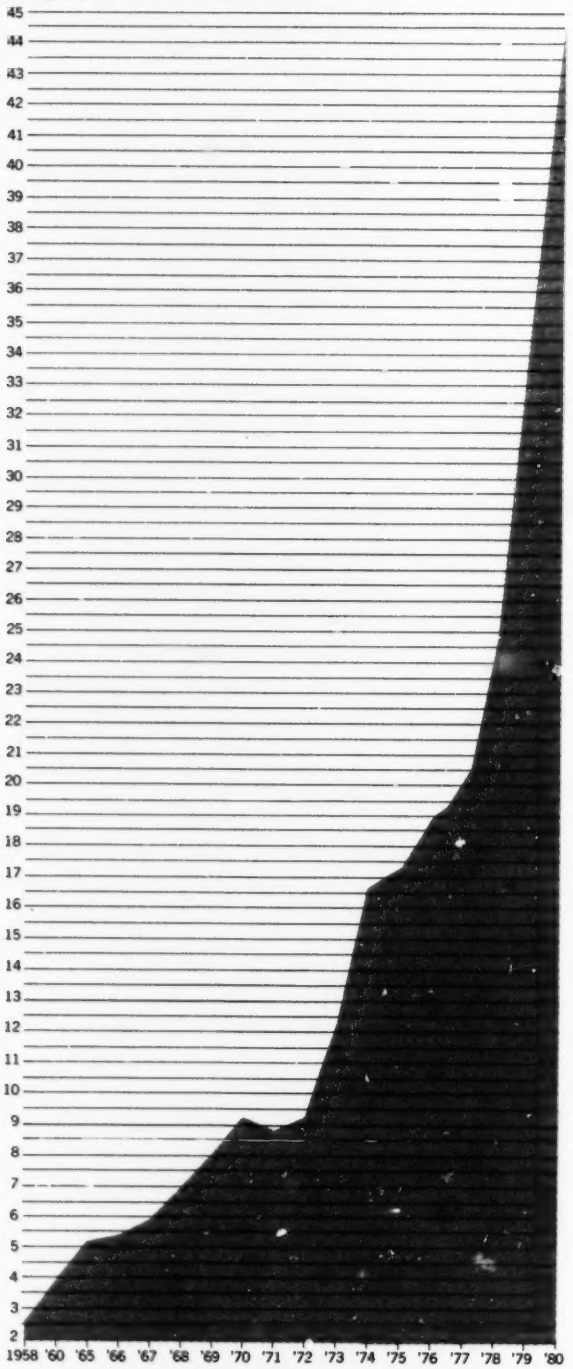
U.S. NONAGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE

1958-1980

Billions of current dollars
at current exchange rates, f.o.b.



PERCENT OF TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

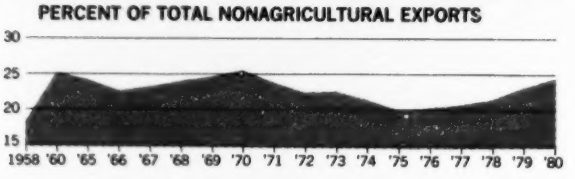


CHART II

Based on Table IV

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